AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the concentration of an analyte in a host or portion thereof over a given time period, said method comprising:

(a) making a first analyte concentration measurement in said host or portion thereof at a first point in said time period using a first ~~substantially painless~~ single use analyte concentration measurement means;

(b) making a second analyte concentration measurement in said host or portion thereof at a second point in said time period using a second ~~substantially painless~~ single use analyte concentration measurement means; and

(c) ~~optionally~~ making one or more additional analyte concentration measurements during said time period using one or more additional ~~substantially painless~~ single use analyte concentration measurement means;

wherein said analyte concentration measurements of (a) and (b) are made according to a selected scheduling mode to monitor the concentration of said analyte in said host or portion thereof over said given time period.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said host or portion thereof is interstitial fluid.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said ~~substantially painless~~ single use analyte concentration measurement means is an interstitial fluid analyte measurement means.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said interstitial fluid analyte measurement means makes an in situ analyte concentration measurement.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said interstitial fluid analyte measurement means makes an ex vivo analyte concentration measurement.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means removes interstitial fluid from said host and analyzes said fluid outside of said host.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means comprises a microneedle.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said analyte is glucose.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the selected scheduling mode comprises a predetermined schedule.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the predetermined schedule comprises measurements taken at fixed time intervals.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the predetermined schedule comprises measurements taken at fixed times.

20. - 22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the concentration of glucose in interstitial fluid of a host over a given time period, said method comprising:

(a) making a first interstitial fluid glucose concentration measurement at a first point in said time period using a first ~~substantially painless~~ single use interstitial fluid glucose concentration measurement means;

(b) making a second interestitial fluid glucose concentration measurement at a second point in said time period using a second ~~substantially painless~~ single use interestitial fluid glucose concentration measurement means; and

(c) ~~optionally~~ making one or more additional interstitial fluid glucose concentration measurements during said time period using one or more additional ~~substantially painless~~ single use interestitial fluid glucose concentration measurement means; wherein said interstitial fluid glucose concentration measurements (a) and (b) are made according to a predetermined schedule to monitor the concentration of interstitial fluid glucose over said given time period.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said interstitial fluid glucose measurement means makes an in situ measurement.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein said interstitial fluid glucose measurement means makes an ex vivo measurement.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said interstitial fluid glucose concentration measurement means removes interstitial fluid from said host and analyzes said fluid outside of said host.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said interstitial fluid glucose concentration measurement means comprises a microneedle.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein said method employs a device that comprises:

(a) at least said first and second ~~substantially painless~~ interstitial fluid glucose measurement means; and

(b) an activation means that activates said first and second measurement means according to ~~a~~ the predetermined schedule.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein said activation means comprises hardware and software components that activate said first and second measurement means according to said predetermined schedule.

30. (Currently Amended) A device for ~~using~~ use in monitoring the concentration of an analyte in a host or portion thereof over a given period of time, said device comprising:

(a) at least a first and a second ~~substantially painless~~ single use analyte concentration measurement means; ~~and~~

(b) a timing device comprising a predetermined timetable; and

~~(b)~~ (c) an activation means for selectively activating said first and second analyte concentration measurement means according to ~~a~~ the predetermined schedule.

31. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 30, wherein said ~~activation means~~ timing device comprises hardware and software components that activate said first and second measurement means according to said predetermined schedule.

32. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 30, wherein said ~~substantially painless~~ analyte concentration measurement means are interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means.

33. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 32, wherein said interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means are glucose concentration measurement means.

34. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 32, wherein said interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means comprises a microneedle.

35. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 30, wherein said device comprises a removable cartridge that comprises said first and second analyte concentration measurement means.

36. (Currently Amended) A system for use in monitoring the concentration of an analyte in a host or portion thereof over a given period of time, said system comprising:

(a) a removable cartridge comprising at least a first and a second ~~substantially painless~~ single use analyte concentration measurement means; and

(b) a device into which said cartridge may be inserted, wherein said device comprises a timing device comprising a predetermined schedule, and an activation means for selectively activating said first and second measurement means of said cartridge according to a the predetermined schedule.

37. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 36, wherein said activation means comprises hardware and software components that activate said first and second measurement means according to said predetermined schedule.

38. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 36, wherein said ~~substantially painless~~ analyte concentration measurement means of said cartridge are interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means.

39. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 38, wherein said interstital fluid analyte concentration measurement means is glucose concentration measurement means.

40. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 39, wherein said interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means comprise a microneedle.

41. (Currently Amended) A kit for use in monitoring the concentration of an analyte in a host or portion thereof over a given period of time, said kit comprising: ~~at least one of:~~

(a) a removable cartridge comprising at least a first and a second ~~substantially painless~~ single use analyte concentration measurement means; and

(b) a device into which said cartridge may be inserted, wherein said device comprises a timing device comprising a predetermined schedule; and ~~a~~ an activation means for selectively activating said first and second measurement means of said cartridge according to ~~a~~ the predetermined schedule.

42. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 41, wherein said activation means comprises hardware and software components that activate said first and second measurement means according to said predetermined schedule.

43. (Currently Amended) The kit according to claim 41, wherein said ~~substantially painless~~ analyte concentration measurement means of said cartridge are interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means.

44. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 43, wherein said interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means are glucose concentration measurement means.

45. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 43, wherein said interstitial fluid analyte concentration measurement means comprise a microneedle.

46. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 41, wherein said kit further comprises a second cartridge.

47. (Previously Presented) The kit according to claim 41, wherein said kit further comprises instructions for using said kit in monitoring the concentration of an analyte over a period of time.

48. - 57. (Canceled).

58. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the concentration of ~~glucose~~ an analyte in ~~interstitial fluid of~~ a host over a given time period, said method comprising:

(a) making a first ~~interstitial fluid glucose~~ analyte concentration measurement at a first point in said time period using a first ~~substantially painless~~ single use ~~interstitial fluid glucose~~ analyte concentration measurement means;

(b) making a second ~~interestitial fluid glucose~~ analyte concentration measurement at a second point in said time period using a second ~~substantially painless~~ single use ~~interestitial fluid glucose~~ analyte concentration measurement means; and

(c) ~~optionally~~ making one or more additional analyte ~~interstitial fluid glucose~~ concentration measurements during said time period using one or more additional ~~substantially painless~~ single use ~~interestitial fluid glucose~~ analyte concentration measurement means; wherein said ~~interstitial fluid glucose~~ analyte concentration measurements are made according to ~~two or more~~ a predetermined

~~schedules~~ schedule selected from two or more predetermined schedules selected by the user or medical personnel to monitor the concentration of interstitial fluid glucose over said given time period.

59. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 58, wherein said ~~interstitial fluid glucose~~ analyte measurement means makes an in situ measurement.

60. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 59, wherein said ~~interstitial fluid glucose~~ analyte measurement means makes an ex vivo measurement.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 58, wherein the measurements are in part triggered according to a timetable programmed by the user or medical personnel.

62. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 58, wherein said ~~interstitial fluid glucose~~ analyte concentration measurement means comprises a microneedle.

63. - 80. (Canceled).

81. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the method is performed utilizing the assistance of an analyte monitoring device, and wherein the device is used to select the scheduling mode.

82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the scheduling mode is contained in the device.

83. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the scheduling mode is selected by a user by interacting with the device.

84. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the method is performed with the assistance of an analyte monitoring device, the device comprising a controller that triggers (a) and (b) according to the selected scheduling mode.

85. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein the controller triggers (a) and (b) without human intervention.

86. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the method is performed utilizing the assistance of a glucose monitoring device, the predetermined schedule contained in the device.

87. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the device further comprises a controller that triggers (a) and (b) according to the predetermined timetable.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein the controller triggers (a) and (b) without human intervention.